

Assembly of First Nations

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 19/2025

TITLE: Support for Sustained Funding for Men and Boys Healing Programs to Prevent MMIWG2S and Uphold the 231 Calls for Justice

SUBJECT: MMIWG2S+, Men's Healing, Gender-Based Violence Prevention, Justice

MOVED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation, MB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
 - ii. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- B. The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice 7.1 through 7.4 highlight the critical need to provide healing, rehabilitation, and prevention programs for men and boys to help them address root causes of violence, trauma, and gender inequality.
- C. The National Inquiry Final Report's 231 Calls for Justice are often misinterpreted as solely pertaining to a select gender identity of First Nations people. However, the 231 Calls for Justice are meant to capture what is required to improve the circumstances for all First Nations people. Like many First Nations teachings, ensuring that the collective well-being is prioritized and maintained is of utmost importance.
- D. In 2023, over 450 MMIWG2S+ survivors, families and grassroots organizers participated in the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National MMIWG2S+ Gathering. Input from First Nations included the need to better support First Nations men, boys, and two-spirited people early on in their lives through prevention,

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mental and emotional health supports, and education. Their input was included in the report *Connecting Hearts and Making Change: Building on Breathing Life into the Calls for Justice*.

- E. AFN Resolution 15/2023, *Support for Advocacy and the Establishment of a Working Group to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys*, provides the mandate for the AFN to advocate for equitable resources and funds for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys (MMIMB), advocate for solutions to address the disproportionate number of First Nations men and boys who go missing or are found murdered, and to work with the Attorney General/Minister of Justice, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and provincial and municipal police forces, to commit to devoting greater resources to investigate unsolved cases.
- F. AFN Resolution 86/2024, *Support for Gender Inclusive Advocacy* directed the AFN to advocate for new dedicated resources and funding to support work to address the issue of Missing and Murdered First Nations Men and Boys (MMFNMB), and Call upon the Minister of Justice/Attorney General of Canada, the provinces, the Department of Justice Canada, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and provincial and municipal forces across Canada to commit to devoting greater resources to addressing MMFNMB, to take action to thoroughly investigate cases involving MMIMB, and to urgently address the issue of police-related deaths of First Nations individuals.
- G. Organizations like Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak (MKO) have launched initiatives such as “Men and Boys Are Part of the Solution,” which empower First Nations men and boys to heal, reclaim traditional roles, and become active leaders in ending violence against women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ persons. In addition, the Dudes Club Society fosters healing by providing a space to facilitate participant-led community for men’s health and wellness through events focused on prioritizing supportive relationships as well as supporting the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness for boys, young men, and gender diverse youth through youth-led initiatives.
- H. Every region in Turtle Island deserves equitable access to funding, training, and support to help First Nations men and boys prevent violence before it occurs, break cycles of harm, and uphold the dignity and safety of all people in their communities.
- I. First Nations have long upheld sacred teachings that call for balance between the roles and responsibilities of women, men, girls, boys, and Two-Spirit peoples, rooted in mutual respect, kinship, and sacred law.
- J. Despite the clear direction of the Calls for Justice, programs aimed at healing and engaging men and boys remain underfunded, short-term, and inconsistent, limiting their reach and long-term effectiveness.
- K. The root causes of violence—intergenerational trauma, colonization, poverty, addiction, and disconnection from cultural identity—require well-funded, culturally appropriate, land-based, and community-driven healing programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Support and commend men and boys healing initiatives such as, Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak’s “Men and Boys Are Part of the Solution”, the Dudes Club Society program, and similar grassroots

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initiatives aimed at helping First Nations men and boys heal from trauma and prevent violence in their families and communities.

2. Call on the Government of Canada, through Crown-Indigenous Relations and Indigenous Services Canada, to make significant long-term and sustainable funding investments in Indigenous-led healing and prevention programs focused on supporting First Nations men and boys. Specifically, funding allocations should be targeted to:
 - a. Address male trauma and accountability;
 - b. Provide traditional teachings and Elder/knowledge keeper guidance;
 - c. Promote respect, safety, and emotional wellness;
 - d. Build strong male allies in the movement to end gender-based violence; and
 - e. Not replicate colonial punitive approaches.
3. Urge the Government of Canada to ensure these new investments explicitly reference the implementation of Calls for Justice 7.1 through 7.4 and recognize that ending the MMIWG2S+ crisis requires engaging and healing men and boys as part of the solution.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 20/2025

TITLE: Youth Reintegration Strategy Review

SUBJECT: Justice, Youth

MOVED BY: Chief Edwin Ananas, Beardy's & Okemasis First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Lynn Acoose, Zagime Anishinabek First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 2: Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity
- ii. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- iii. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health, and social security, which are all closely linked to youth justice outcomes.
- iv. Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

B. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Calls to Action #55 states:

- i. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or any current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on the progress towards reconciliation. The reports or data would include, but not be limited to:

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- Progress on eliminating the overrepresentation of First Nations children in youth custody over the next decade.
 - Progress on reducing the overrepresentation of First Nations people in the justice and correctional systems.
- C. First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights to justice and equity within Canada's legal systems, and these rights must be respected through culturally appropriate and effective policies that address systemic inequities.
- D. The Department of Justice stated in their *Overrepresentation of Indigenous People in the Canadian Criminal Justice System: Cause and Response* 2019 report:
- i. Aboriginal youth accounted for 46% of admissions to correctional services in the 10 reporting jurisdictions in 2016/2017, while representing 8% of the general youth population in those same jurisdictions. Aboriginal youth are overrepresented in both custody and community supervision, accounting for 50% of custody admissions and 42% of community supervision admissions. Aboriginal females accounted for a greater proportion of custody admissions among youth relative to their male counterparts. Aboriginal female youth accounted for 60% of female admissions, while Aboriginal male youth made up 47% of male youth admissions.
- E. A comprehensive review and analysis of the current youth justice strategy is imperative and must be carried out with the full and meaningful participation of First Nations leadership, youth, Elders, and Knowledge Holders to ensure culturally safe and effective alternatives are developed.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on the Government of Canada to support a comprehensive review of regional youth reintegration and justice strategies, with a focus on addressing the overrepresentation and recidivism of First Nations youth in custody.
2. Direct the AFN to advocate that the review process be led by First Nations voices with experts from a legal and cultural background, and that collaboration between all levels of governments supports and provides adequate funding to ensure that the findings of the review inform the development of culturally appropriate reintegration frameworks for First Nations Youth.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 21/2025

TITLE: National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering

SUBJECT: Women's Commission

MOVED BY: Chief Shelley Bear, Ochapowace First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Roberta Francis, Nekaneet First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 22(1): Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration.
- B. First Nations hold Mothers, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles with the highest regard as life-givers, protectors of culture, and keepers of traditional, spiritual, and medicinal knowledge.
- C. Despite their vital leadership roles and intergenerational wisdom, there is currently no national gathering dedicated specifically to First Nations Mothers, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles to come together to share teachings and knowledge.
- D. A National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering would create a sacred and supportive space for knowledge sharing, language revitalization, ceremony, cultural empowerment, and the exchange of best practices from diverse First Nations across Turtle Island.
- E. Such a gathering would also strengthen community-based healing, mentorship, and support systems for First Nations families and would reaffirm the cultural authority of Women, Grandmothers, Matriarchs, and those in motherly roles in Nation rebuilding and governance.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on Canada to fund and support the inaugural National Mothers and Grandmothers Gathering in 2025, to be planned and hosted by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Women's Commission in collaboration with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) advisory Councils, First Nations leadership, Elders, matriarchs, and relevant organizations.
2. Direct the AFN to support and promote this gathering through national advocacy and to call on Canada to commit funding sources to ensure that the national gathering is broad and inclusive.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 22/2025

TITLE: Implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada's *Sparrow* Decision

SUBJECT: Fisheries

MOVED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Gerald Toney, Annapolis Valley First Nation, NS

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- Article 26(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied and otherwise used or acquired.
 - Article 26(2): Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupations or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
- B. It has been 25 years since the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) rendered the *Sparrow Decision* (1990) that recognizes the right of First Nations to fish for food, social, and ceremonial (FSC) purposes, which take priority over all other uses of the resources, second only to conservation.
- C. There have been several other significant SCC decisions, including *Badger*, *Van der Peet*, *Adams*, *Gladstone*, *Marshall*, *Ahousaht*, *Delgamuukw*, *Haida Nation*, *Lax Kw'alaams*, *Tsilhqot'in Nation*, *Sappier*, and *Gray*, that also affirm the rights of First Nations fisheries that have yet to be respectfully implemented to the satisfaction of those appellants.
- D. The 2025 common mandate letter from the Prime Minister of Canada to all his Ministers states: "Canada is a dynamic country that celebrates our diversity, cares for the most vulnerable among us, and strives for a better future for all. The new federal Government will continue the vital work of advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. We will fight climate change. We will uphold the rule of law, protect our democratic institutions, and reinforce the unity of our country."

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- E. Resolution 69/2019, *To Fully Implement the First Nations Priority Right to Food, Social and Ceremonial*, called upon Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada to immediately cease placing unlawful restrictions on FSC fisheries of First Nations and reminded them that the Treaties did not cede any territorial lands or waters to the Crown and guaranteed the right to hunt, fish, and gather.
- F. The Government of Canada has begun the modernization of its Policy for the Management of Indigenous Fishing under Measure 36 of the National Action Plan to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Call on all responsible Ministers, including those of Fisheries and Oceans and Justice Canada, to pursue, develop, and enact enabling federal legislation regarding fisheries to respect and advance Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) fisheries decisions, and to uphold Aboriginal and Treaty-protected rights in a timely manner consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek financial and technical supports for discussions amongst First Nations who wish to participate in the development of legislation, regulation and policy for the implementation of all successful SCC decisions related to all fisheries.
3. Direct the AFN to examine the development of First Nations mechanisms that can bridge the gaps between SCC decisions, First Nations negotiations, and Crown implementation processes to ensure that all decisions are honoured and implemented effectively in a timely fashion.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 23/2025

TITLE: Response to Canada's 2025–26 Distribution of Specific Claims Research Funding and Erosion of First Nations' Right to Justice

SUBJECT: Specific Claims, Lands

MOVED BY: Chief Erica Beaudin, Cowessess First Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 18: Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision-making institutions.
- ii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- iii. Article 27: States shall establish and implement, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples concerned, a fair, independent, impartial, open and transparent process, giving due recognition to Indigenous peoples' laws, traditions, customs and land tenure systems, to recognize and adjudicate the rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to their lands, territories, and resources, including those which were traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to participate in this process.

B. The specific claims process is one of the few mechanisms available for First Nations to exercise their right to redress for historical breaches by the Crown, and specific claims research funding is fundamental to the process.

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- C. Claims Research Units (CRUs), established and mandated by First Nations, currently research and develop over 80 percent of all active claims and are a critical means by which First Nations pursue justice for their historical claims.
- D. Canada has stated that for the 2025-26 fiscal year, it received a significant increase in the number of research funding applications from individual First Nations and the number of claims on CRUs' funding proposals.
- E. Canada distributed the \$12 million in research funding available for 2025-26 according to a unilaterally devised and non-transparent system which allocated funding to individual First Nation applicants, and then to mandated CRU applicants with the result that:
 - i. individual First Nations applicants have received insufficient funding (25 percent less than the maximum claim allowance of \$40,000 per claim and, on average, 50-75 percent less than they requested);
 - ii. CRUs have received severe and debilitating cuts to their budgets (up to 83 percent), directly impacting 80 percent of all First Nations claims in research and development; and
 - iii. the ability of all First Nations to advance their specific claims through their chosen mechanisms has been significantly compromised, as longstanding research programs now struggle to survive and research progress on hundreds of claims will be curtailed.
- F. Canada failed to inform CRUs and First Nations of the 2025–26 funding allocations until three months into the fiscal year, after CRUs had already committed staff and resources based on previous levels and past funding practices – incurring unrecoverable costs and leaving a fraction of resources to stretch over the remainder of the fiscal year.
- G. Canada also failed to apply or communicate any consistent, transparent methodology for allocating funds, creating sudden, destabilizing shortfalls that will derail ongoing research work, bar First Nations from advancing new claims, undermine their access to justice, and waste already scarce resources.
- H. By arbitrarily cutting CRU budgets — despite their economies of scale and ability to advance the greatest number of claims — and by underfunding direct First Nation allocations, Canada has undermined system-wide efficiency and effectiveness that will reduce the number of claims that could be advanced, essentially squandering limited public funds.
- I. These cuts compound a growing crisis that undermines both First Nations' access to justice and Canada's previous commitment to co-develop an independent specific claims process, and will lead to structural failure, regional inequities, and long-term system paralysis.
- J. These actions contravene Canada's obligations under the UN Declaration, fail to uphold the Honour of the Crown, and contradict Canada's public commitment to reconciliation and redress of past harms.
- K. These actions will delay the resolution of historical claims and by doing so will inject uncertainty into land-based processes and compound risks to major energy, infrastructure, and resource development projects.
- L. AFN Resolutions 80/2023 and 11/2024 affirm the need for adequate, predictable, and transparent specific claims research funding and support for CRUs, but do not address this new federal 2025–26 crisis.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Affirm that First Nations have the right, in accordance with *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) Articles 18, 19, and 28, to choose how their historical grievances are researched and advanced—whether through mandated Claims Research Units (CRUs) or as individual applicants—and that Canada must ensure equitable and appropriate funding for both pathways, consistent with First Nations' mandates, needs, and right to redress.
2. Condemn the 2025–2026 distribution of specific claims research funding as it violates reasonable expectations and principles of fairness, and was undertaken without consultation, transparency, and respect for First Nations' self-determined representation and research mechanisms.
3. Direct the AFN to engage with the Prime Minister and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to urgently address the funding crisis and ensure sustainable and equitable access to claims research support for all First Nations.
4. Call on Canada to:
 - a. co-develop, with First Nations, a reformed specific claims research funding model that is transparent, equitable, needs-based, and grounded in the UN Declaration, Treaty rights, and First Nations' right to choose their own representatives and research mechanisms; and
 - b. provide an urgent top-up of the 2025–2026 research envelope to reach a minimum of \$35 million, in line with the demonstrated need to uphold First Nations' mandates to have CRUs research and develop their claims and to maintain this level of funding until a reformed specific claims research funding model has been fully co-developed and endorsed by First Nations.
5. Affirm that the 2025–26 funding crisis demonstrates the urgent need for Canada to return to the co-development table to honour its past commitments by re-engaging in good faith with First Nations to co-develop a fully independent specific claims policy and process — beginning with adequate, stable, and transparent research funding that enables First Nations to investigate, prepare, and advance their claims through mechanisms of their own choosing.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 24/2025

TITLE: Support for First Nations' Advocacy Related to the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project

SUBJECT: Environment, Lands, Water, Fisheries

MOVED BY: Chief Kirby Constant, James Smith Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Darcy Desjarlais, Fishing Lake First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. In March 2024, the Government of Saskatchewan publicly announced and committed to the multi-phase Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project (LDIP), projected to cost over \$4 billion and extract over 850 million cubic metres of water annually, with Phase 1 commencing in 2025.
- B. The Government of Saskatchewan is the project applicant, proponent, and the provincial regulator of the LDIP through the Saskatchewan Water Security Agency (WSA), the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Highways.
- C. First Nations of Treaty 2, 4, 5 & 6 continue to argue that the LDIP is one project, but the Government of Saskatchewan has split the project into three (3) phases, thereby attempting to minimize perception of the cumulative impacts of all three phases.
- D. To date, there has not been any federal or provincial environmental or impact assessments conducted for the LDIP, nor has there been meaningful consultation with First Nations whose rights, lands, waters, species and ways of life will be impacted.
- E. In June 2021, the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) issued correspondence to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) requesting that the entirety of the project be designated a "project" under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) and thus be subject to a federal impact assessment, to which FSIN received a response from (IAAC) indicating that phases 1 and 2 do not meet the criteria but phase 3 includes physical activities prescribed under the federal *Physical Activities Regulations*.

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- F. First Nations and FSIN continue to advocate for the federal designation of the entire project to be deemed a “project” to ensure a comprehensive impact assessment is conducted prior to approval and construction of LDIP.
- G. The federal IAA amendments of June 2024 compel a new analysis and review of the LDIP application in addition to review of the IAA regulations and policies, and Government of Saskatchewan regulations and policies applicable to the current LDIP application, including the *Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act*.
- H. The Government of Saskatchewan has advanced the LDIP beyond the conceptual stage and has been provided written notice by First Nations of potential impacts and infringements to the exercise of our Inherent and Treaty Rights, requiring the Crown to engage in meaningful consultation with First Nations.
- I. Despite the issuance of formal requests, the Government of Saskatchewan has not directly issued disclosure of project application, permits, timelines or relevant information or documents to First Nations regarding the project.
- J. This project may significantly impact at least 10 of the 14 watershed systems in Saskatchewan across Treaties 2, 4, 5, and 6, and poses potential risks to water security, Treaty Land Entitlement negotiations, biodiversity, sacred sites, and the health of major river systems, including the Saskatchewan River Delta and the Qu'Appelle River.
- K. There remain serious concerns about the cumulative impacts of water extraction and land use under climate change scenarios, and the province has not demonstrated transparency in its analysis of these risks.
- L. FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly adopted Resolution #2220 calling for a legal review, technical engagement, and federal designation of the entire project under the IAA.
- M. First Nations continue to raise concerns about the lack of capacity supports, nation-specific engagement, and operational clarity in WSA's approach to consultation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate with the Privy Council Office, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and other relevant federal Ministers to provide capacity funding to ensure each potentially impacted First Nation can meaningfully participate in consultation processes. This includes supporting First Nation-led environmental and/or impact assessments, recognition of traditional knowledge, participation in water quality and ecosystem monitoring, and the implementation of Inherent and Treaty Rights and jurisdiction.
2. Direct the AFN to support the continued coordination among impacted First Nations across Saskatchewan and Manitoba, with particular attention to Treaty Land Entitlement land selections and Addition to Reserve processes.
3. Direct the AFN to call on the Government of Saskatchewan and its Water Security Agency, as proponents of the Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Project, ensure that all decisions fully involve and are informed by impacted First Nations.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 25/2025

TITLE: Investing in First Nations Freshwater Stewardship

SUBJECT: Water, Environment

MOVED BY: Chief Tony Traverse, Kinonjeoshtegon First Nation, MB

SECONDED BY: Chief Hartley Everett, Berens River First Nation, MB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relations with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters, and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- ii. Article 29(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection without discrimination.
- iii. Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.
- iv. Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

B. Freshwater ecosystems across Turtle Island are at risk, with freshwater quality, quantity, and biodiversity cumulatively impacted by environmental degradation, pollution, and climate change.

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- C. Management of freshwater across Canada exists in a complex landscape of jurisdiction that requires collaboration amongst federal, provincial, territorial governments, binational organizations, Indigenous Peoples, as well as non-governmental and private sector organizations.
- D. First Nations are on the front lines of these challenges, facing compounding impacts on water quality from harmful algal blooms, contamination, and resource development.
- E. In addition to growing water security concerns from the privatization of water, impacts to water levels from industrial use—exacerbated by climate change—have immense impacts on transportation and supply routes, especially for Northern and remote First Nations.
- F. Additionally, industrial water use for power generation has resulted in impacts to freshwater ecosystem health and important fish habitat, including the loss of connectivity for the migration of culturally important fish species, with negative consequences for subsistence fisheries.
- G. Water is sacred to First Nations and foundational to our health, well-being, cultural continuity, and ways of life. Ongoing water insecurity and declining health of our freshwater ecosystems directly threaten our Inherent rights and responsibilities.
- H. First Nations are leading innovative and effective watershed governance and stewardship initiatives, including First Nations water gatherings, watershed assessment and planning, developing water strategies, ecosystem restoration, and Indigenous science-based monitoring.
- I. Investing in First Nations-led watershed stewardship is an act of nation-building, enabling First Nations to exercise their jurisdiction, fulfil responsibilities to the Land and Water, and to contribute meaningfully to Canada's climate resilience, biodiversity goals, and sustainable economy.
- J. Collaboration amongst First Nations will also be a critical part of the solution. For example, First Nations around Lake Winnipeg are working together to set environmental restoration objectives and have called for First Nations in the Lake Winnipeg Watershed, spanning across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, to assert their rights to stewardship.
- K. Recent Government of Canada initiatives, such as establishing a Canada Water Agency, commitments to modernize the *Canada Water Act*, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada's (DFO) Ecologically Significant Areas (ESAs) policy present timely opportunities for long-term, collaborative investments in First Nations-led water governance and stewardship, consistent with reconciliation and the vision for a net-zero, nature-positive future.
- L. The First Nations-in-Assembly have passed resolutions directing the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support First Nations on water stewardship, including Resolution 53/2023, *First Nations-led Process for National Water Stewardship and the Canada Water Agency*, and Resolution 43/2021, *Support for First Nations Inherent Rights, Title and Jurisdiction related to Water Stewardship, including the Traditional Roles of First Nations Women*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

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1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to call on federal, provincial, and territorial governments to support and invest in First Nations-led water stewardship, including watershed planning, assessment, monitoring, and restoration, through long-term, flexible, and sustainable funding models.
2. Direct the AFN, guided by the relevant technical and Chiefs' committees, to identify and leverage federal, provincial, and territorial government policy and legislative tools, including the Ecologically Significant Areas policy, the *Canada Water Act*, and mechanisms under the Canada Water Agency, to support First Nations in water stewardship and governance.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 26/2025

TITLE:	Support for the Renewal and Expansion of First Nations Adult Education Funding
SUBJECT:	Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Leroy Denny, Eskasoni First Nation, NS
SECONDED BY:	Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Sq'ewlets (Scowlitz) First Nation, BC
DECISION	Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - Article 14(2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
 - Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
 - Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B.** First Nations have the Inherent and Treaty right to receive education that is in accordance with their culture, values, traditions, and languages and that is free of prejudice and discrimination.
- C.** First Nations have advocated for federal support of adult education rooted in a vision of lifelong learning, including learning opportunities at every stage of life that contributes to individual and community health and well-being.

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- D. In 2018, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), National Indian Education Council (NIEC), Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) co-developed the *2018 Policy Proposal on First Nations Post-Secondary Education* (2018 PSE Policy Proposal), later amended into a Memorandum to Cabinet. The 2018 PSE Policy Proposal referenced the outstanding need for adult education and called for \$124.5 million annually in transitional funding for secondary upgrading and/or completion to assist First Nations students to be prepared for post-secondary education.
- E. In 2021, the Government of Canada announced an adult education investment of \$350 million over a five-year period through the First Nations Post-Secondary Education Strategy, expiring in March 2027.
- F. In 2021, the AFN, NIEC, CCOE and ISC co-developed the *2021 Post-Secondary Education Policy Proposal on First Nations-led Local, Regional and Treaty-based Models* (2021 PSE Policy Proposal). The 2021 PSE Policy Proposal proposes regional post-secondary education (PSE) models with increased funding, resources, and support for First Nations post-secondary education. Furthermore, it calls to unlock the \$350 million investment announced in Budget 2021 for adult education, with regional allocations determined by First Nations to meet the unique needs of adult learners in each region.
- G. In 2021, ISC unilaterally created the First Nations Adult Secondary Education Program and the First Nations Adult Education in Yukon and Northwest Territories Program. These programs are the mechanism by which Canada flows funding and were developed without First Nations input. As a result, the programs fail to meet the needs of First Nations as identified in the 2021 PSE Policy Proposal.
- H. The ISC-created programs are time-limited, do not offer flexible expenditures and do not allow First Nations to expand adult education programming for all their members.
- I. First Nations have created over 104 new adult education programs across the country and have 108 new schools admitting adults since the investment in 2021.
- J. Time-limited adult education funding for First Nations is inequitable and must be replaced with the same ongoing funding that is provided to non-Indigenous learners.
- K. Increased levels of education in adults positively correlate with stronger social, health, and economic outcomes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations, Chiefs Committee on Education, and National Indian Education Council to continue to advocate for sustainable, core funding for adult education programming that is comparable to funding for school-aged and infrastructure.
- 2. Call on Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to renew and expand funding for First Nations adult education by:
 - a. Ensuring adult education funding is no longer time-limited and is established as a core allocation;
 - b. Allocating \$198.9 million annually to ensure long-term, sustainable support for First Nations adult education programs; and
 - c. Enabling flexible program expenditures and eligibility as determined by First Nations.

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3. Call on ISC to ensure that funding is delivered before the expiration of Budget 2021 allocations, so that the hundreds of First Nations students, programs, and schools relying on this support are not interrupted or forced to scale back.
4. Affirm that nothing in this resolution is meant or shall be interpreted to diminish, limit, impact or supersede the ability of a First Nation to exercise their inherent jurisdictions, to exercise and fulfill their rights and authorities under Treaties, regional models, or to engage in their unique relationship with Canada.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 27/2025

TITLE: Support for a Revised First Nations Control of First Nations Education Policy

SUBJECT: Education

MOVED BY: Tyrone McNeil, Proxy, Sq'ewlets (Scowlitz) First Nation, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Lisa Robinson, Wolf Lake First Nation, QC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A.** The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - ii. Article 14(2): Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
 - iii. Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
 - iv. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B.** First Nations have Inherent and Treaty rights regarding education, and the Government of Canada must uphold and honour the inherent authority of First Nations to exercise control over their education.

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- C. Education is a fundamental human right. For First Nations, this right is uniquely situated within a framework of Inherent rights as Indigenous Peoples that are constitutionally protected under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- D. In 1972, First Nations in Canada endorsed the policy of *Indian Control of Indian Education* (ICIE), which advanced an education approach premised on parental and local control and was affirmed by the Minister of Indian Affairs in 1973.
- E. In July 2009, First Nations endorsed the development of an updated policy paper through Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 13/2009, *A Revised Indian Control of Indian Education Policy 2009*, reflecting First Nation control and jurisdiction of all aspects of lifelong learning, including language, culture and values.
- F. In December 2009, First Nations adopted, in principle, the new national First Nations education policy as *First Nations Control of First Nations Education* (FNCFNE), through AFN Resolution 37/2009, *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*, with the support of the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC).
- G. In July 2010, First Nations endorsed and ratified the updated *First Nations Control of First Nations Education (2010)* through AFN Resolution 12/2010, *First Nations' Control of First Nations Education*, as a core policy position on First Nations education.
- H. The FNCFNE policy document is a key resource for holding Canada accountable to First Nations' educational priorities. Given the recent 2025 federal election and the appointment of a new Minister for Indigenous Services Canada, a revised version of FNCFNE will reflect First Nations' current circumstances and highlight First Nations' educational advancements, emphasizing the foundational principles of First Nations' rights to educational self-determination.
- I. Significant policy changes have changed the landscape of First Nations education in the last 15 years since the 2010 FNCFNE update. In accordance with AFN Resolution 65/2017, *New Interim Funding Approach for First Nations Education*, AFN Resolution 20/2021, *First Nations Control of Federal Funding* and, the *Policy Proposal: Transforming First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education, 2017*, the Government of Canada is required to work directly with First Nations to ensure that education funding approaches are agreed upon and reflect the diverse needs and circumstances of First Nations learners, schools, communities, and education organizations.
- J. The underlying principles outlined in ICIE remain as relevant today as they were affirmed 52 years ago. The updates to FNCFNE will be instrumental in reaffirming the principles of ICIE and FNCFNE and continuing to affirm that First Nations education remains an essential priority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Support the ongoing development of a revised version of the 2010 *First Nations Control of First Nations Education* (FNCFNE) policy paper to reflect the significant advancements in First Nations educational self-determination since 2010. This revision should reaffirm the core principles of *Indian Control of Indian Education* (ICIE) policy and the Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations to education.

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2. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Languages and Learning Sector to take direction from the Chiefs Committee on Education and the National Indian Education Council to revise the FNCFNE document in preparation for First Nations' consideration at the Annual General Assembly in July 2026. The revisions will include the following:
 - a. A description of policy changes and important strides in First Nations educational self-determination since 2010, including the *Policy Proposal: Transforming First Nations Elementary and Secondary Education, 2017* and transformative education agreements.
 - b. Stronger references to ICIE articulating chronic underfunding, sub-standard educational facilities, and the necessity of post-secondary education in the job market.
 - c. Updated statistics to replace outdated numerical figures and accurately reflect current circumstances, including updating the secondary education attainment rate.
 - d. Minor organizational and rhetorical changes to strengthen the overall messaging of the document.
 - e. Improved graphics for an updated appearance.
3. Affirm that this resolution is not meant to, and shall not, be interpreted to diminish, limit, impact or supersede the ability of a First Nation to exercise their inherent jurisdictions, to exercise and fulfill their rights and authorities under Treaties, regional models, or to engage in their unique relationship with Canada.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 28/2025

TITLE:	Advancing Federal Recognition and Investment in First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions
SUBJECT:	Post-Secondary Education
MOVED BY:	Chief Coreen Sayazie, Black Lake Denesuline First Nation, SK
SECONDED BY:	Chief Kirby Constant, James Smith Cree Nation, SK
DECISION	Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- B. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* provides a legislative framework for recognizing the constitutional and human rights of Indigenous Peoples, including post-secondary education (PSE).
- C. Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 21/2020, *First Nations-Led Local, Regional and Treaty-based Post-Secondary Education Models*, directed the Chiefs Committee on Education, National Indian Education Council and the AFN to work in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to co-develop a policy proposal, as demonstrated through the *2021 PSE Policy Proposal on First Nations*

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Models (V12), which was to supplement a Memorandum to Cabinet to obtain authority for First Nations to negotiate and conclude First Nations led, local, regional and Inherent/Treaty rights-based PSE models.

- D. ISC continues to recognize PSE as a social policy and does not fund First Nations based on the Treaty and Inherent right to education. Furthermore, since 2021, federal budgets continue to disregard programming and policy changes requested by the First Nations-in-Assembly to improve PSE processes and funding for institutions and students.
- E. First Nation-led Post-Secondary Institutes in Canada play a critical national role in advancing First Nation self-determination in education, supporting First Nations language revitalization, and contributing to the social and economic wellbeing of First Nations across the country.
- F. Despite this role, they do not receive sustained, predictable core funding from the Government of Canada, and lack federal recognition through a charter to protect its academic autonomy and institutional integrity.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to urge the Government of Canada to work with First Nations, the AFN National Indian Education Council, AFN Chiefs Committee on Education, and First Nations-led post-secondary institutions to recognize, affirm, and protect the academic autonomy, self-determined governance, and role of those First Nations post-secondary institutions.
- 2. Call on the Government of Canada to uphold the funding shortfall commitments identified in the 2018 Policy Proposal: *First Nations Post-Secondary Education*, and the 2021 Policy Proposal: *First Nations-led, local, regional and/or Treaty-based Post-Secondary Education Models*, to advance sustainable, equitable, and distinctions-based funding for First Nations post-secondary education students and institutions.
- 3. Call upon the Government of Canada to prioritize investments in First Nations-led post-secondary infrastructure by establishing a dedicated capital funding stream for First Nations post-secondary institutions, recognizing these projects as essential components of Canada's nation-building agenda and as foundational to reconciliation, economic development, and First Nations self-determination—consistent with the federal commitment to support First Nations-led infrastructure and nation-building projects that close socioeconomic gaps and advance shared prosperity.
- 4. Urge the Government of Canada to recognize that, for First Nations students as well as for all learners, the high school diploma no longer constitutes a sufficient minimum threshold to guarantee autonomy, skills development, and full participation in society, and that, consequently, the extension of the right to education up to the college level (K4 to 15) represents a structural and necessary measure to meet current socio-economic realities and requirements, well beyond the standards established in 1961.
- 5. Affirm that nothing in this resolution is meant or shall be interpreted to diminish, limit, impact or supersede the ability of a First Nation or Region to exercise their inherent jurisdictions, to exercise and fulfill their rights and authorities under Treaties, or to engage in their unique relationship with Canada.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 29/2025

TITLE: Transformative Change of the Access to Information Regime

SUBJECT: Access to Information, Data Sovereignty

MOVED BY: Judy Wilson, Proxy, Osoyoos Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Dalton Silver, Sumas First Nation, BC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:
- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the State.
 - ii. Article 11(2): States shall provide redress through effective mechanisms, which may include restitution, developed in conjunction with indigenous peoples, with respect to their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property taken without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs.
 - iii. Article 19: States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with Indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free, prior, and informed consent before adopting and implementing legislative or administrative measures that may affect them.
- B. First Nations have existing rights to their intellectual property and records held by the Government of Canada. Courts have consistently confirmed that the Government of Canada has a corresponding obligation to disclose records to First Nations in a timely and efficient manner.
- C. In 2024, the Senate Standing Committee on Indigenous Peoples (APPA) released its report on documents related to Indian Residential School system, *Missing Records, Missing Children*, which included specific recommendations to the Government of Canada related to the Access to Information and Privacy regimes.

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Recommendation 10 calls on the Government of Canada to insert a reconciliatory clause in the purpose clauses of Canada's *Access to Information Act* and *Privacy Act*.

- D. The Government of Canada possesses, and controls significant amounts of historical documentation and evidence related to specific claims and other claims against the Crown. As the defendant to these claims, the Government of Canada's control over the evidence places it in a position of conflict of interest.
- E. First Nations face excessive delays in seeking access to their information held by the Government of Canada. Additionally, First Nations must grapple with inconsistent, overbroad and arbitrary redactions in information disclosures. These systemic barriers impede First Nations from accessing their information and amount to a denial of access to justice. An informal access to information process was established in recognition of First Nations' unique rights and interests in their information but is impacted by delays and has failed to address the underlying conflict of interest.
- F. In 2023, the Government of Canada released the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Declaration. Action Plan Measures "Shared Priorities 3 and 30" call on the Government of Canada to work in direct consultation with First Nations during the periodic review of federal statutes and the advancement of Indigenous data sovereignty. Additionally, Action Plan Measure 66 commits the Government of Canada to take "measures to address barriers to full and effective participation by Indigenous peoples [in decision-making related to legislative, policy and program initiatives], including, for example, in relation to access to information and capacity supports."
- G. In 2025, the President of the Treasury Board is mandated by law to review the *Access to Information Act* and produce a report to Parliament.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Call on the President of the Treasury Board to consult and cooperate with First Nations and national claims research organizations regarding current and future legislative or administrative changes related to the access to information regime.
- 2. Call on the President of the Treasury Board to take meaningful measures in full consultation and cooperation with First Nations on the advancement of Indigenous data sovereignty including the need for targeted amendments to the *Access to Information Act* to realize the principles of Indigenous data sovereignty.
- 3. Call on the Government of Canada to take all measures necessary to ensure the *Access to Information Act* meets the minimum standards of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
- 4. Call on the Government of Canada to accept and implement the recommendations from the *Missing Records, Missing Children* report and in specific, Recommendation 10, related to the *Access to Information Act*.
- 5. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to seek resources to participate in the review of the *Access to Information Act* and to work with the Government of Canada and First Nations, to jointly develop and implement reforms to the *Access to Information Act*.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 30/2025

TITLE: Implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy

SUBJECT: Self-determination, Data Sovereignty, Governance

MOVED BY: Chief Andy Alook, Bigstone Cree Nation, AB

SECONDED BY: Chief Chantal Kistabish, Pikogan First Nation, QC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. Articles 3, 4, 5, 18 and 34 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) affirm First Nations' Inherent rights to self-determination, to rebuild and sustain their political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, to participate in all decision-making through their own representative bodies, and to preserve and promote their distinct customs and governance systems.
- B. Meaningfully exercising these rights demands full ownership and control over the information that defines and guides First Nations' lives. This control—data sovereignty—is itself an Inherent right and an essential governance capacity.
- C. National and regional leadership have repeatedly affirmed the need to establish fully functional regional information governance centres (RIGCs) to deliver shared data and statistical services – empowering First Nations governments to own, control, and leverage their data through the work of centres that are governed by, and accountable to, the First Nations themselves.
- D. The First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC) was established through a mandate from First Nations-in-Assembly in 2009 to promote, protect and advance the First Nations Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP®) principles, and the Inherent right to self-determination and jurisdiction in research and information management.
- E. Resolution 57/2016, *Funding for Regional First Nations Information Governance Centres*, recognized data sovereignty as the cornerstone to nation rebuilding, and directed Canada to fund engagement with leadership, establishment of data champions in each region, development of fully functional RIGCs, and

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the coordination of a national First Nations data governance strategy as a viable pathway to asserting First Nations' rights over their data.

- F. In response, FNIGC and its regional partners submitted the community-driven and Nation-based national First Nations Data Governance Strategy (FNDGS) to Indigenous Services Canada in March 2020, outlining the plan to establish a national network of fully functional RIGCs that provide information governance and shared data and statistical services to every First Nation, ensuring no First Nation is left behind.
- G. In Federal Budget 2021, the Government of Canada committed to funding FNIGC and its regional partners to implement the first phase of the FNDGS, starting with the establishment of 10 regional data champion teams to engage First Nations and leadership on the form and function of their RIGC and define priority data and statistical services, supported by a national data champion team at FNIGC responsible for coordinating implementation, ensuring alignment, and planning at the national level.
- H. Implementation of the FNDGS is progressing in every region at a pace set by leadership and in line with community-driven and First Nation-based capacity building priorities.
- I. Federal funding expired on 31 March 2025, and a renewed federal commitment is needed to support a second phase of funding, which will focus on demonstration projects that will accelerate the establishment of fully functional RIGCs supporting key data needs in priority areas.
- J. Action Plan Measure #30 of Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan (June 2023) commits Canada to provide sufficient sustainable support for Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Indigenous-led data strategies ensuring First Nations have the capacity to control and use their data to deliver effective services to their peoples, tell their own stories, participate in federal decision-making processes on matters that impact them, and realize their respective visions for self-determination.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Affirm that First Nations Data Sovereignty—the right of First Nations to own, control, access, and possess First Nations data—is an Inherent right integral to self-determination and self-government, and must be recognized, respected, and implemented by all levels of government and their agencies.
- 2. Call on the Government of Canada to adhere to Action Plan Measure #30 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* Action Plan.
- 3. Call on the Government of Canada to provide sufficient, sustainable funding for the full, multi-stage implementation of the First Nations Data Governance Strategy, prioritizing the establishment of a national network of fully functional Regional Information Governance Centres, along with a fully functional National Centre to coordinate the network at the national level.
- 4. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to work with the First Nations Information Governance Centre and its regional partners, where appropriate, to support the implementation the First Nations Data Governance Strategy.

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Assemblée des Premières Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 31/2025

TITLE: First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy

SUBJECT: Social Development, Health, Education

MOVED BY: Chief George Ginnish, Natoaganeg First Nation, NB

SECONDED BY: Chief Rebecca Knockwood, Fort Folly First Nation, NB

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 5: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social, and cultural institutions, while retaining their right to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the State.
- ii. Article 14(1): Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
- iii. Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.
- iv. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing sanitation, health and social security.
- v. Article 23: Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social

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programmes affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programmes through their own institutions.

- B.** First Nations have the Inherent right of self-government, which includes the right to govern the care and education of their children.
- C.** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Call to Action #12 calls upon "federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to develop culturally appropriate early childhood education programs for Aboriginal families."
- D.** The First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Policy Framework was developed in 2017 and supported by the First Nations-in-Assembly via Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Resolution 83/2017, *Support for the National First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Policy Framework*. The Framework is an evergreen guide that identifies the vision, goals, and outcomes to improve the First Nations ELCC system, with a focus on First Nations governance and control.
- E.** The research conducted to support the development of the ELCC Policy Framework identified the need to develop a First Nations-led Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy with the overall goal of enhancing data control and understanding of First Nations ELCC.
- F.** The AFN, the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on First Nations ELCC, and the Government of Canada have been co-developing the Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy.
- G.** The goal of the Results Framework is to outline potential outcomes of the seven key principles of the ELCC Policy Framework using a series of First Nation-based and determined indicators, to inform understanding and decision making, and track progress towards the Policy Framework's intended goals. The seven principles for First Nations ELCC Policy Framework are:
 - i.** First Nations governance and jurisdiction;
 - ii.** Incorporation of First Nations culture, language, and knowledge;
 - iii.** Ensuring inclusivity, accessibility, and flexibility within the program;
 - iv.** Implementing quality programs and services;
 - v.** Focus on collaborations and partnerships;
 - vi.** Capacity development; and
 - vii.** Ensuring transparency and accountability.
- H.** The Evaluation Strategy is a tool used to measure the success of First Nations ELCC programming by analyzing the data collected through the Results Framework at various checkpoints, as determined by First Nations to understand progress towards key milestones.
- I.** The goal of the ELCC Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy is to increase understanding of ELCC and encourage First Nations-led data collection and storage efforts, while reducing administrative burdens on First Nations.

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

1. Acknowledge and accept in principle the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Results Framework and Evaluation Strategy (the Strategy) as an evergreen document, recognizing that it may be updated or modified as progress is made and further input is received from First Nations. Final endorsement shall be subject to adequate time for review, consideration, and feedback by the First Nations-in-Assembly.
2. Direct the National Expert Working Group (NEWG) on ELCC to oversee a pilot project of the Strategy, to better understand the capacity and resources needed to implement it for all First Nations.
3. Direct the Assembly of First Nations to report back to the First Nations-in-Assembly on the progress of the pilot project by July 2027.
4. Call upon the Government of Canada to adequately fund all First Nations to implement the Strategy, in addition to program funding, including and not limited to, data collection and storage technology, computers and internet, and personnel such as administrative professionals and data analysts. Funding should be needs-based and account for cost of living in northern and remote First Nations, inflation, or other factors.
5. Call upon the Government of Canada to acknowledge and provide funding to address barriers and gaps found within the ELCC system found through implementation of the Strategy.

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
September 3-4-5, 2025, Winnipeg, MB

Resolution no. 32/2025

TITLE: Five Percent Quota of Indigenous Music on Public and Private Radio

SUBJECT: Indigenous Languages

MOVED BY: Chief Jonathan Shetush, Innu Takuaitkan Uashat mak Mani-utenam, QC

SECONDED BY: Chief Sipi Flamand, Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan, QC

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration), which the Government of Canada has adopted without qualification, and has passed legislation committing to implement, affirms:
- i. Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalize, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
 - ii. Article 13(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that this right is protected and also to ensure that indigenous peoples can understand and be understood in political, legal and administrative proceedings, where necessary through the provision of interpretation or by other appropriate.
 - iii. Article 14(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
 - iv. Article 14(3): States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

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- v. Article 16(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-indigenous media without discrimination.
 - vi. Article 16(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudices to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect indigenous cultural diversity.
- B. In 2019, the Parliament of Canada passed the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA). It purports to recognize that section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, includes 'rights related to Indigenous languages'. However, this Act fails to identify any specific First Nations language rights or provide mechanisms for their enforcement. The language rights of Canada's official language minorities, on the other hand, are clearly defined and enforceable since they were adopted in the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- C. The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period between 2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032), this resolution urges the need to act collaboratively to ensure that no one is left behind and to promote and pursue the objectives of the UN Declaration by fostering international cooperation to support national and regional efforts.
- D. The Declaration on First Nations Languages Rights adopted by the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) states that systemic discrimination, racism and assimilationist cultural and educational policies of the federal and provincial governments have hindered the transmission of First Nations languages, and the First Nations languages rights are positive rights, which require that First Nations governments, as well as federal and provincial governments, take positive measures to ensure their respect and implementation, both within First Nations institutions and in federal and provincial institutions:
- i. Article 20: First Nations have the right to access radio programs in their First Nations language through Indigenous community radio and more generally within the Canadian broadcasting system.
 - ii. Article 39: First Nations have the right to reparation and the restitution of their First Nations languages in the state they would have existed in had they not been subjected to assimilationist policies that were destructive to their language and cultures.
- E. In June 2019, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) launched a consultation to co-develop a new Indigenous broadcasting policy with First Nations, Métis and Inuit so that the Canadian broadcasting system can better support the needs of Indigenous Peoples, but despite the participants' recommendations, the current Indigenous Broadcasting Policy does not set quotas for broadcasting a minimum amount of Indigenous programs or music in Canada.
- F. In 2023, the Government of Canada passed the *Broadcasting Act*, which states that programming and employment opportunities within the broadcasting system must serve the needs, interests, and aspirations of the Canadian population. This policy must first and foremost recognize the unique place of Indigenous Peoples and languages, while also reflecting equality of rights, linguistic duality, and the multicultural and multiracial character of Canadian society.

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- G. In 2023, the AFNQL adopted a resolution requesting that the CRTC implement the Federal Government's commitment to reflect the special place of Indigenous Peoples in Canadian society by imposing a five percent quota for Indigenous music on private and public commercial radio in Quebec and Canada.
- H. Our languages are the first official languages of our territories and they must be valued and promoted in order to repair the harm done to them. We must collectively fight the system of thought that has tried to make them invisible. The creation of content in Indigenous languages will enable greater visibility and valorization of Indigenous languages and create economic development for the Indigenous cultural community.
- I. The intent of the residential school system was the genocide of Indigenous Peoples by the extinguishment of our cultures and languages. The Government of Canada has a responsibility to work concretely towards the reparation and restitution of Indigenous languages.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. In the spirit of reconciliation, call on the Government of Canada to fulfill its legislative requirements through the *Indigenous Languages Act* (ILA) and the *Canadian Broadcasting Act* taking concrete action to promote and protect Indigenous languages.
- 2. Call on the Government of Canada to appoint an Indigenous Commissioner to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).
- 3. Urge the CRTC to implement the Federal Government's commitment to reflect the special place of Indigenous Peoples in Canadian society by imposing a five percent quota for Indigenous music on private and public commercial radio in Canada.
- 4. Call on the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to advocate for a greater ratio of Indigenous language music with the CRTC.
- 5. Call for adequate funding to support the production of content in Indigenous languages and for increased funding for Indigenous radio.

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